

## (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
24 July 2003 (24.07.2003)

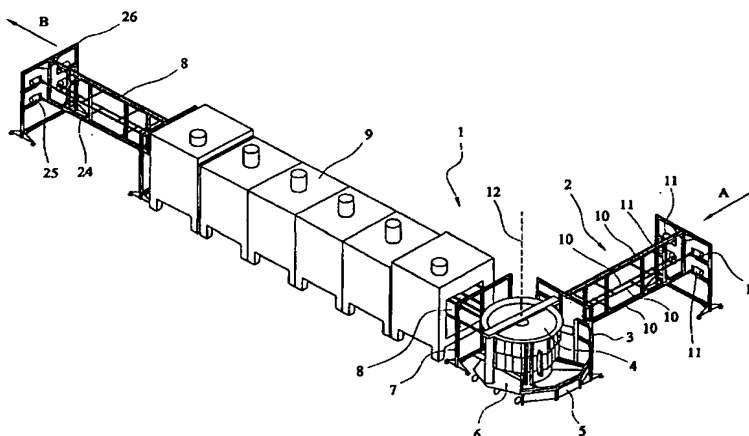
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 03/059536 A1**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **B08B 3/02**
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/GB03/00148**
- (22) International Filing Date: 15 January 2003 (15.01.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
UD2002A000005 15 January 2002 (15.01.2002) IT  
0202043.6 30 January 2002 (30.01.2002) GB
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):  
**MAINETTI (UK) LIMITED** [GB/GB]; Annfield  
Estate, Oxnam Road, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, Scotland  
TD8 6NN (GB).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **MAINETTI, Mario** [IT/IT]; Via Cornetto 2G, I-36078 Valdagno (Vicenza) (IT).
- (74) Agent: **VINSOME, Rex, Martin**; Urquhart-Dykes &  
Lord, St Nicholas Chambers, Amen Corner, Newcastle  
Upon Tyne NE1 1PE (GB).
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,  
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,  
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,  
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,  
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,  
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE,  
SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ,  
VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,  
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),  
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,  
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI,  
SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,  
GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:  
— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR REMOVING ADHESIVE LABELS FROM GARMENT HANGERS



(57) Abstract: An apparatus (1) for removing adhesive labels from garment hangers includes an input conveyer (2) for receiving garment hangers (not shown) and which terminates in a loading station (3) for loading the hangers onto a rotatable support (4). The support (4) faces a washing station (5), a pre-drying station (6) and an unloading station (7) for unloading hangers from the support (4) onto an output conveyer (8) which passes through an elongate drying chamber (9). The washing station (5) includes four water guns (not shown), each of which directs a thin high pressure and high temperature jet of water at the label area of a hanger in an up and down or side to side motion. The high temperature of the water causes the adhesive of the labels to melt, and the force of the spray removes the label and forces it into a collection chamber at the lower part of the washing station (5), where the water, label and adhesive residue are removed for cleaning.

WO 03/059536 A1

**WO 03/059536 A1**



---

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*